Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (currently amended) A system for providing self-installing

2 software components for network service execution, comprising:

3   a service host system to store network service software for a service ~~and to~~

4 ~~generate a code bundle comprising network service software~~ and installation

5 ~~instructions~~ software for the network service software, wherein the installation

6 software comprises an installation predicate object and a helper object; and

7   a requesting system to communicate with the service host system through

8 a basic communication framework, comprising:

9   a checking mechanism to ~~receive an installation predicate object~~

10 ~~comprising code from the service host system to determine availability of the~~

11 ~~network service software on the service host system and to verify~~ download and

12 execute the installation predicate object, wherein the installation predicate object

13 comprises code to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the

14 service host system by testing hardware, peripherals, and software components of

15 the requesting system and to generate a list of missing components when at least

16 one required component for installation of the network service software is

17 missing;

18   a helper mechanism to ~~receive the code bundle providing the~~

19 ~~network service software for the service through the service host system~~

20 download and execute the helper object, wherein the helper object comprises code

21 to obtain the at least one required component when missing and to install the

22 network service software using the installation ~~instructions~~ software; and

23   a service mechanism to provide a service of equivalent

24 functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other

25 requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

1 2.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further

2 comprising:

3   a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public

4 interface defined on the network service software.

1 3.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, wherein the

2 standardized method definitions are selected from the group comprising at least

3 one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval

4 method, and an update method.

1 4.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the

2 network service software is updated through the service host system.

1 5.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the

2 installation predicate object verifies that the runtime environment satisfies

3 prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software.

1 6.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the

2 installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for

3 execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 7 (canceled).

1 8.   (currently amended) A system according to ~~Claim 7~~ Claim 1,

2 wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for

3 execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1 9.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further

2 comprising:

3   an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve

4 and install any updates to the network service software.

1   10.   (original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update

2   object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a

3   managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 11 (canceled).

1   Claim 12 (canceled).

1   13.   (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic

2   communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1   14.   (currently amended) A method for providing self-installing

2   software components for network service execution, comprising:

3   storing <u>on a service host system,</u> network service software for a service ~~on~~

4   ~~a service host system and generating a code bundle comprising the network~~

5   ~~service software~~ and installation ~~instructions~~ <u>software</u> for the network service

6   software<u>, wherein the installation software comprises an installation predicate</u>

7   <u>object and a helper object</u>; and

8   establishing a basic communication framework between the service host

9   system and a requesting system, comprising:

10   ~~receiving on~~ <u>executing by</u> the requesting system, [[an]] <u>the</u>

11   installation predicate object comprising code ~~from the service host system to~~

12   ~~determine availability of the network service software and~~ to verify prerequisites

13   against a runtime environment through the service host system by testing

14   hardware<u>, peripherals,</u> and software components of the requesting system <u>and to</u>

15   <u>generate a list of missing components when at least one required component for</u>

16   <u>installation of the network service software is missing</u>;

17   ~~receiving on~~ <u>executing by</u> the requesting system, the ~~code bundle~~

18   ~~providing the network service software for the service through the service host~~

19   ~~system on the requesting system and installing~~ <u>helper object comprising code to</u>

20   <u>obtain the at least one required component when missing and to install on the</u>

21   <u>requesting system,</u> the network service software using the installation ~~instructions~~

22   <u>software</u>; and

23   providing by the requesting system, a service of equivalent

24   functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other

25   requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

1   15.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2   comprising:

3   specifying a set of standardized method definitions provided through a

4   public interface defined on the network service software.

1   16.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further

2   comprising:

3   defining the standardized method definitions selected from the group

4   comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification

5   method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

1   17.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2   comprising:

3   updating the network service software through the service host system.

1   18.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2   comprising:

3   verifying that the runtime environment satisfies the prerequisites necessary

4   to install and execute the network service software.

1   19.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein

2   the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for

3   execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 20 (canceled).

1   21.   (currently amended) A method according to ~~Claim 20~~ Claim 14,

2   wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for

3   execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   22.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2   comprising:

3   defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve

4   and install any updates to the network service software.

1   23.   (original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update

2   object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a

3   managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 24 (canceled).

1   Claim 25 (canceled).

1   26.   (original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic

2   communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1   27.   (original) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for

2   performing the method according to Claim 14.

1   28.   (currently amended) An apparatus for providing self-installing

2   software components for network service execution, comprising:

3   means for storing on a service host system, network service software for a

4   service ~~on a service host system and for generating a code bundle comprising the~~

5   ~~network service software~~ and installation ~~instructions~~ software for the network

6   service software, wherein the installation software comprises an installation

7   predicate object and a helper object; and

8   means for establishing a basic communication framework between the

9   service host system and a requesting system, comprising:

10   means for ~~receiving on~~ <u>executing by</u> the requesting system, [[an]]

11 <u>the</u> installation predicate object comprising code ~~from the service host system to~~

12 ~~determine availability of the network service software on the service host system~~

13 ~~and~~ to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host

14 system by testing hardware<u>, peripherals,</u> and software components of the

15 requesting system <u>and to generate a list of missing components when at least one</u>

16 <u>required component for installation of the network service software is missing;</u>

17   means for ~~receiving on~~ <u>executing by</u> the requesting system, the

18 ~~code bundle providing the network service software for the service through the~~

19 ~~service host system and for installing~~ <u>helper object comprising code to obtain the</u>

20 <u>at least one required component when missing and to install on the requesting</u>

21 <u>system,</u> the network service software using the installation ~~instructions~~ <u>software;</u>

22 and

23   means for providing by the requesting system, a service of

24 equivalent functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more

25 other requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.